

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated July 14, 2006. A Petition for Extension of Time (three months) and the fee therefor are enclosed.

Applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claim 10 is withdrawn. Claims 1-9 have been rejected.

Claim 1 was amended in response to the Examiner's objection to informalities.

In response, to the Examiner's objection to the specification, the paragraph at page 13, line 25 was replaced in compliance with §37 C.F.R. 1.121.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,308,928 to Galant ("Galant") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,003,228 to Lievens et al. ("Lievens") and either U.S. Patent No. 6,305,199 to Igelmund ("Igelmund") or U.S. Patent No. 4,823,568 to Rogers et al. ("Rogers").

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lievens in view of Rogers.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a laptop lock assembly. The laptop lock assembly includes "a lock body configured to be coupled to a laptop" and a "cable plug including an arm", wherein in "a locked state in which the arm of the cable plug and the locking portion of the lock body cooperate with one another to form an enclosed area between the arm of the cable plug and the locking portion of the lock body". These recitations are not found in the prior art references.

An example of the coupling of the lock body to a laptop according to the present invention is discussed on page 1, lines 23-27 of the specification as follows:

Many models of portable computers today are equipped with safety means. The safety means usually includes a standardized slot on an outer wall or housing of the computer. A variety of locking devices, generally with steel cables attached to the locking devices, have been developed for the attachment and disengagement thereof to such slots.

The lock body 18 of Galant and the lock body 40 of Lievens are not "configured to be coupled to a laptop" as in claim 1. Instead, in Figs. 2-4 of Galant, the lock body 18 is shown to

be placed under a desk top 28 on which a laptop is placed. Moreover, the lock body 40 of Lievens is not coupled to anything. It is simply placed under a plate 50 and connected through two holes in the plate 50 to the locking device 25.

Claim 1 calls for an enclosed area that is created between the cable plug arm 212 and the arm 222 on the lock body. In Galant, contrary to the Examiner's reference to the so-called arms 32, 36, such enclosed area is not possible because the table 28 interferes in creation of an enclosed area with any portion of the lock body 18. Similarly, in Lievens, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, formation of an enclosed area between the arm of the cable plug and the locking portion of the lock body is not possible because the plate 50 28 interferes in creation of an enclosed area between the shackle 35 and any portion of the lock body 40.

Igelmund and Rogers fail to remedy the above discussed limitations of Galant and Lievens. These prior art references were used by the Examiner to discuss a loop and a U shaped shackle. These teachings are not pertinent to the above discussion.

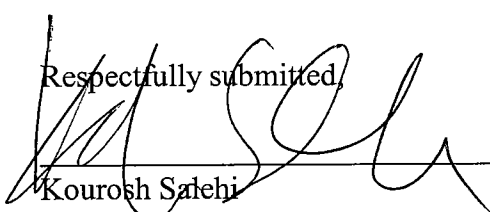
Therefore, Galant, Lievens, and their combination do not teach, disclose, or suggest "a locked state in which the arm of the cable plug and the locking portion of the lock body cooperate with one another to form an enclosed area between the arm of the cable plug and the locking portion of the lock body".

Thus, Applicants' independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from Galant, Lievens or their combination. Claims 2-9 depend directly or indirectly from the above discussed independent claim and are, therefore, allowable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the independent claim.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH
THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS
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Respectfully submitted,


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